**Serious problem to be created by the restriction of UAE Government on non-metric job seekers from India**

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, I draw the attention of this august House to the serious problem going to be created due to the reported move of the UAE Government not to issue new job permits to expatriates who lack High School qualification. The UAE reportedly wants to phase out such immigrants over three years. This will hit a large number of people from India especially from Kerala who work in the UAE. Sir, according to a study the total number of Keralites in the UAE is more than 4,05,000. Of this, about 40 per cent do not possess Class X qualification. The majority of Indians who work in the Gulf countries though not metrics but are skilled and experienced in technical and other fields. Sir, already the condition of job opportunities in the Gulf is not so good. Many Gulf countries are restricting the entry of foreigners who seek jobs in their land. Our people are compelled to go abroad leaving their families and motherland for their livelihood due to the serious problem of unemployment that we face in our country. If enforced the proposed rules would not only restrict the issue of fresh visas to non-metrics but also prohibit renewal of work-permits to the existing non-matric employees thereby forcing a large number of Indians in UAE to return to the country. This could lead to serious socio-economic problems. Sir, already the State of Kerala is facing a serious economic problem. The exodus from the UAE would be a blow not only to the State of Kerala but numberless families who depend on the expatriates. I request the Government especially the External Affairs Minister through you, Sir, to urgently use our good relations with the UAE and our persuasive skills to make the friendly country desist from the reported restrictions.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Sir, I also associate myself.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, the issue raised by the hon. Member is a very serious issue, affecting not only the Kerala State but other parts of the country also. I will bring this issue to the notice of the External Affairs Minister.